

Lawrence County Conservation District (LCCD) would like to remind municipalities that the annual surveillance season for mosquitoes and ticks is ongoing

Our technician is collecting tick and mosquito samples to test for disease and will be responding with control activity to reduce nuisance mosquito populations or when diseases like West Nile Virus are detected. Gravid trapping began in May and now Host Seeking traps will begin in June. Monitoring and Control will last this year through the month of September.



Example of a technician dragging a cloth to pick up ticks for disease testing



Trapping devices you may see in wet areas to capture mosquitos for disease testing

As we spend more time outdoors, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and LCCD recommends the following steps to prevent bites from mosquitoes and ticks:

- Insect repellent, when used properly, can keep mosquitoes and ticks off your skin. We recommend using repellents that are EPA approved that contain DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus, and adults should help apply repellents to children under 12.
- Wear long-sleeve shirts, long pants, and socks to keep bugs off your skin.
- Perform daily tick checks after being outdoors, even in your own yard. Inspect all parts of your body carefully, including your armpits, scalp, and groin. Remove ticks immediately using fine-tipped tweezers.



- Early morning, late afternoon, and early evening are peak biting times for mosquitoes that spread West Nile virus. It's especially important to use repellent if you're outdoors at these times.
- Mosquitoes lay their eggs in water, even in small containers. Walk around the outside of your home at least once a week and empty any water that's collected in toys, pet food and water bowls, birdbaths, buckets, and other objects. Check under bushes and other hard-to-see places. Get rid of old tires and other objects that can collect water.
- Create a tick-safe zone around your home. For example: remove leaf litter and clear grasses and brush around your home and the edge of the lawn, and place mulch between lawns and wooded areas to keep ticks off the places you work and play the most.
- Check for and repair holes in window and door screens.
- Avoiding mosquitoes and ticks doesn't mean that you have to stay inside in front of the TV. Work and play outside, but remember to apply an effective repellent to exposed skin and clothing.

Funding for the collection, testing and control of tick and mosquito populations is supported through a grant provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. To report high mosquito activity, please contact your county West Nile Virus Program Coordinator at 724-714-3005 or Fsmith@LawrenceCD.org.

